

10/500104

DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 JUN 2004

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4/A

In re the Application of:

NISHIMOTO et al

International Appln. No.: PCT/JP02/13347

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Attorney Dkt. No.: 62533.00015

For: STAIRCASE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 25, 2004

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below. This Preliminary Amendment complies with the amendment format as set forth in 68 Fed. Reg. 38611 dated June 30, 2003.

**Amendments to the claims are submitted on page 2.**

**Remarks are submitted on page 11.**